

Amendments to House Bill No. 520
1st Reading Copy

Requested by Representative Pat Ingraham

For the House State Administration Committee

Prepared by Sheri Heffelfinger
February 12, 2007 (6:40pm)

1. Title, page 1, line 8.

Following: " ; "

Insert: "REVISING WHEN BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ABSENTEE
VOTING; "

2. Title, page 1, line 11.

Following: "13-13-201, "

Insert: "13-13-205, 13-13-213, 13-13-214, "

3. Page 16, line 1.

Insert: "Section 18. Section 13-13-205, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-13-205. When paper ballots to be available. (1) The election administrator shall ensure that paper ballots are printed and available for absentee voting at least:

(a) 30 days prior to an election for those elections held in compliance with 13-1-107(1);

(b) 20 days prior to an election for those elections held in compliance with 13-1-104(2) and (3) and 13-1-107(2); and

(c) 45 days prior to an election held in conjunction with a federal general election in compliance with 13-1-104(1).

(2) A ballot may not be provided to an elector for absentee voting sooner than 30 days before an election, except that an absentee ballot requested pursuant to Title 13, chapter 21, may be sent to the elector as soon as the ballot is printed.

~~(2) If paper ballots are sent more than 30 days before an election, the election administrator shall include a notice that the voter information pamphlet, when required to be distributed, will be provided pursuant to 13-27-410."~~

{ Internal References to 13-13-205:
x13-13-222 } "

Insert: "Section 19. Section 13-13-213, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-13-213. Transmission of application to election administrator -- delivery of ballot. (1) All absentee ballot application forms must be addressed to the appropriate election official.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (4), the elector may mail the application directly to the election administrator or deliver the application in person to the election administrator. An agent designated pursuant to 13-1-116 or a third party may collect the elector's application and forward it to the election

administrator.

(3) The election administrator shall compare the signature on the application with the applicant's signature on the registration card. If convinced that the individual making the application is the same as the one whose name appears on the registration card, the election administrator shall deliver the ballot to the elector in person or as otherwise provided in 13-13-214, subject to 13-13-205.

(4) In lieu of the requirement provided in subsection (2), an elector who requests an absentee ballot pursuant to 13-13-212(2) may return the application to the special absentee election board. Upon receipt of the application, the special absentee election board shall examine the signatures on the application and a copy of the voting registration card to be provided by the election administrator. If the special absentee election board believes that the applicant is the same person as the one whose name appears on the registration card, the special absentee election board shall provide a ballot to the elector, subject to 13-13-205."

{ Internal References to 13-13-213:

x13-1-116 a13-13-214 } "

Insert: "Section 20. Section 13-13-214, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-13-214. Mailing absentee ballot to elector -- delivery to person other than elector. (1) (a) Except as provided in 13-13-213 and in subsection (1)(b) of this section, ~~as soon as the official paper absentee ballots are printed, the election administrator shall, no sooner than authorized in 13-13-205, immediately send by mail, postage prepaid, to each legally registered elector and provisionally registered elector from whom the election administrator has received a valid absentee ballot application under 13-13-211 and 13-13-212 whatever official ballots are necessary.~~

(b) The election administrator may deliver a ballot in person to an individual other than the elector if:

(i) the elector has designated the individual, either by a signed letter or by making the designation on the application form in a manner prescribed by the secretary of state or pursuant to 13-1-116;

(ii) the individual taking delivery of the ballot on behalf of the elector verifies, by signature, receipt of the ballot;

(iii) the election administrator believes that the individual receiving the ballot is the designated person; and

(iv) the designated person has not previously picked up ballots for four other electors.

(2) The election administrator shall enclose with the ballots:

(a) a form prescribed by the secretary of state that allows the elector to request absentee ballots for each subsequent federal election only or for all subsequent elections, as provided for in 13-13-212(4);

administrator.

(3) The election administrator shall compare the signature on the application with the applicant's signature on the registration card. If convinced that the individual making the application is the same as the one whose name appears on the registration card, the election administrator shall deliver the ballot to the elector in person or as otherwise provided in 13-13-214, subject to 13-13-205.

(4) In lieu of the requirement provided in subsection (2), an elector who requests an absentee ballot pursuant to 13-13-212(2) may return the application to the special absentee election board. Upon receipt of the application, the special absentee election board shall examine the signatures on the application and a copy of the voting registration card to be provided by the election administrator. If the special absentee election board believes that the applicant is the same person as the one whose name appears on the registration card, the special absentee election board shall provide a ballot to the elector, subject to 13-13-205."

{ Internal References to 13-13-213:

x13-1-116 a13-13-214} "

Insert: "Section 20. Section 13-13-214, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-13-214. Mailing absentee ballot to elector -- delivery to person other than elector. (1) (a) Except as provided in 13-13-213 and in subsection (1)(b) of this section, ~~as soon as the official paper absentee ballots are printed,~~ the election administrator shall, no sooner than authorized in 13-13-205, ~~immediately send by mail,~~ postage prepaid, to each legally registered elector and provisionally registered elector from whom the election administrator has received a valid absentee ballot application under 13-13-211 and 13-13-212 whatever official ballots are necessary.

(b) The election administrator may deliver a ballot in person to an individual other than the elector if:

(i) the elector has designated the individual, either by a signed letter or by making the designation on the application form in a manner prescribed by the secretary of state or pursuant to 13-1-116;

(ii) the individual taking delivery of the ballot on behalf of the elector verifies, by signature, receipt of the ballot;

(iii) the election administrator believes that the individual receiving the ballot is the designated person; and

(iv) the designated person has not previously picked up ballots for four other electors.

(2) The election administrator shall enclose with the ballots:

(a) a form prescribed by the secretary of state that allows the elector to request absentee ballots for each subsequent federal election only or for all subsequent elections, as provided for in 13-13-212(4);

(b) a secrecy envelope, free of any marks that would identify the voter; and

(c) an envelope for the return of the ballots. The envelope must be self-addressed by the election administrator and an affirmation in the form prescribed by the secretary of state must be printed on the back of the envelope.

(3) The election administrator shall ensure that the ballots provided to an absentee elector are marked as provided in 13-13-116 and remove the stubs from the ballots, attaching the stubs to the elector's absentee ballot application.

(4) If the ballots sent to the elector are for a primary election, the election administrator shall enclose an extra envelope marked "For Unvoted Party Ballot(s)". This envelope may not be numbered or marked in any way so that it can be identified as being used by any one elector.

(5) Instructions for voting must be enclosed with the ballots. Instructions for primary elections must include use of the envelope for unvoted ballots. The instructions must include information concerning the type or types of writing instruments that may be used to mark the absentee ballot. The instructions must include information regarding use of the secrecy envelope and use of the return envelope. The election administrator shall include a voter information pamphlet with the instructions if:

(a) a statewide ballot issue appears on the ballot mailed to the elector; and

(b) the elector requests a voter information pamphlet."

{Internal References to 13-13-214:

a13-13-213 x13-13-233 x13-21-212}"

Renumber: subsequent sections

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